

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 645 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Commerce and Government Matters Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Prince George's County - Specimen Ballots**  
**PG 405-02**

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This bill requires the Prince George's County Board of Elections to mail a specimen ballot to each registered voter before a general election, and to each household of one or more registered voters before a primary election.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill would not directly affect local operations or finances because it codifies current practice.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Specimen ballots must be mailed to the household of each registered voter before a general election. The Prince George's County Board of Elections is not required to send out specimen ballots for primary elections.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The Prince George's County Board of Elections currently has a policy of mailing specimen ballots to every registered voter for both the primary and general elections. Thus, current practice exceeds the requirements of the bill. Prince George's County advises that this practice increases expenditures for printing and postage by \$120,000 in each primary and \$30,000 for each general election. The next

primary election will take place in September 2002 and the next general election will take place in November 2002; both occur in fiscal 2003. In fiscal 2004 there is a Presidential primary election and in fiscal 2005 there is a Presidential general election.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1202, an identical bill, passed the House in the 2001 session, but was not reported from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee. Two similar bills were introduced in 2000 (HB 1022), and 1999 (HB 337). Both bills passed the House but were not reported from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Maryland State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2002  
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